

Minutes
Dietitian-Nutritionist PAC Meeting
Wednesday September 22nd, 20004

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 EST

In Attendance:

Rockville, Maryland

CDR Jean Makie

*CAPT Laura McNally

CDR Celia Hayes

*CAPT Maureen Leser

Via phone

CAPT Shirley Blakeley

*LT Janis Armendariz

CDR Peggy Barrow

Ms Leila Beker

LT Amy Beutler

*CDR Kari Blasius

*CAPT Tammy Brown

LT Pauli Carmi

CAPT Bachman Carter

*LCR Alexandra Cossi

LCDR Suzan Dunaway

LT Chris Dunbar

*CAPT Mary Gessay

CDR Juli Haws

*CAPT Karen Herbelin

CAPT Jo Holland

LT Samantha Maloney

*LCDR Kristen Moe

CAPT Glen Revere

*CDR Charlene Sanders

*LT Deidra Scarborough

*CDR April Shaw

CDR Ann Staten

CDR Shirley Turpin

LCDR John Urban

*LCDR Kirsten Warwar

LCDR Vergie Ramos-Tate

Pam ? (HRSA Scholar?)

Demerius (HRSA Scholar?)

CPO Report:

CAPT Shirley Blakeley, CPO D-N Category, reported on the CPO retreat, which focused on transformation issues and the need for the Commissioned Corps to become proactive. The retreat facilitator met with PAC Chairs prior to the meeting to provide additional perspectives, and challenged CPOs to look “out of the box” for ideas to expand the roles of each category.

Subcommittee Reports:**CCRF**

CAPT Laura McNally shared recent statistics on CCRF “readiness” figures for the D/N category and additional ideas that officers could use to meet the basic criteria for readiness. She also shared statistics on deployment roles and the fact that the likelihood of being deployed in the role of a “dietitian” is very slim. While there are many “field” stories of the need for dietitians during a deployment, those organizations and individuals asking for assistance rarely identify the need for a “dietitian” by name. Dietitians are much more likely to be deployed when registered as a “Team Leader”, “Health Educator”, or “Liaison Officer”. Over the next two months, the CCRF Subcommittee will continue to focus efforts on helping officers meet readiness standards so our category can meet the goal of 50% compliance to basic readiness standards by September 30, 2004.

Website Subcommittee

CAPT Mary Gessay and CDR Shirley Turpin were pleased to announce the launch of the redesigned D/N category website, effective August 4, 2004. The site provides a wealth of information, including the history of our category, descriptions of agencies and organizations that employ PHS dietitians, career and continuing education opportunities for PHS dietitians, D/N-PAC subcommittee goals, and promotion precepts. Capt Gessay and CDR Turpin encourage members of the D/N category to take the time to review the site over the next several months and to provide feedback to them on the site.

Recruitment and Mentoring Subcommittee

CDR Celia Hayes reported that the Commissioned Corps Dietitian Category is now 88 strong. In addition, there are 18 RDs on the list of applicants to the Commissioned Corps, including several DOD officers who are interested in transferring to the Corps and several HRSA Scholars who have received permanent positions and have applied to the Commissioned Corps. The leadership of the Recruitment and Mentoring Subcommittee continues to advertise the Corps in schools, internships and in publications, and to provide mentors for new CC officers to ease their transition and encourage involvement in Corps activities.

Professional Development Subcommittee

LCDR Alexandra Cossi thanked subcommittee members for their assistance in developing the Professional Development section of the revised website. LCDR Cossi

hopes that this site meets the needs of PHS dietitians, and encourages everyone to review it. She will survey our membership at a later date to help determine whether it is providing assistance and/or what changes will make it better.

Old Business:

CAPT Leser reported that she has only received a few nominations for “Dietitian of the Year” and “Emerging Nutrition Leader” and will extend the date for submitting nominations.

CDR Hayes has received approval for submitting the article on “Dietitians in the Commissioned Corps” to Today’s Dietitian. She hopes the article will be published in the November issue.

CAPT Leser confirmed that the Commissioned Corps does not allow appointments for RD eligible dietitians. Eligibility standards will be revised to reflect this.

CAPT Leser shared that the charter for the D/N-PAC has been revised and sent to the office of the Surgeon General for preliminary review.

New Business:

The D/N-PAC confirmed the nomination of CDR Peggy Barrow as D/N-PAC Chair for 2005-2006. Congratulations to CDR Barrow!

The 2005 COA Meeting will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from June 6th to June 10th. The Surgeon General has challenged the CC to set an attendance goal. Last year, 18 RDs attended the conference in Anchorage, Alaska; the goal for Philadelphia is for 34 RDs to attend. CDR Jean Makie and CDR Shirley Turpin are co-chairs for Category Day of this conference. The theme of the conference is “Global Health”, but categories are free to expand on that theme for category day activities. CDRs Makie and Turpin have participated in teleconferences with other category chairs to share ideas. They are convening a subcommittee to assist them with planning activities, and will soon schedule a teleconference to discuss specific proposals. They are also actively requesting abstracts and other RD contributions for the meeting.

Agency Reports:

Indian Health Service RDs are developing a dietetic internship.

Four of the new set of HRSA Scholars are dietitians, several of whom have expressed interest in joining the Commissioned Corps.

LCDR Alexandra Cossi has served as liaison for: DNC? RNC? IV?

The USDA is actively recruiting Food Safety Officers. All dietitians are encouraged to check out those positions, which are listed on USA jobs.gov.

The new Clinical Research Center of the NIH will be dedicated on September 22, 2004.

CDC shared several job announcements for GS / CC positions.

JOAG Report

The Surgeon General participated in the 9/11/04 JOAG meeting. During that meeting he challenged junior officers to wear their uniforms daily.

Junior officers expressed interest in attending BOTC classes, but also concern about who will pay for transportation and other costs of attendance. Secty Tommy Thompson of HHS has publicly stated that we (PHS / CC employees) are “One Department” and that the needs of CC officers should be met by OPTIVs. Supervisors are sometimes put in a tough spot to distribute their limited budgets fairly, but the needs of all HHS employees must be met and considered fairly and equally.

Announcements:

There is great interest in distance learning opportunities; the Professional Development subcommittee will continue to look for information on such programs to post on the website.

Officers attending FNCE were encouraged to wear their uniform.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 EST